

Message Text

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10

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 OPR-02 DPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12 OMB-01 /076 W

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R 170610Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO AMERICAN CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3717

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 2972

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: APER, PFOR, PINS, VS, CA

SUBJ: FOREIGN NATIONALS TRAPPED IN BAN ME THUOT

1. WHEN BAN ME THUOT WAS ATTACKED MARCH 10 THE FOLLOWING FOREIGN NATIONALS (ALONG WITH NINE AMERICANS AND SEVEN VIETNAMESE) WERE IN THE COMPOUND OF AMERICAN PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVE PAUL STRUHARIK: PETER WHITLOCK, AN AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL ON A PRIVATE VISIT, AND ENRIQUE C. TOLENTINO, A FILIPINO EMPLOYEE OF USAID (WITH HIS VIETNAMESE WIFE AND DAUGHTER). THE FIRST TWO DAYS US CONSULATE GENERAL NHA TRANG WAS IN TOUCH WITH COMPOUND BY RADIO FROM TIME TO TIME, AND THERE WAS ADEQUATE FOOD AND WATER. THE MILITARY SITUATION, WHICH INCLUDED CONSIDERABLE ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE, DID NOT PERMIT AIR EVACUATION. COMBAT DID NOT APPEAR TO BE TAKING PLACE IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA OF THE COMPOUND.
2. OUR LAST RADIO CONTACT WAS AT 11:30 A.M. MARCH 12. SOON AFTER THAT TIME IT BECAME APPARENT THAT MOST OF CENTRAL PART OF BAN ME THUOT

INCLUDING AREA OF COMPOUND WAS IN ENEMY HANDS. VISUAL OBSERVATION OF COMPOUND SINCE THAT TIME INDICATES NO DAMAGE NOR SIGNS OF ACTIVITY. WE HAVE NO FURTHER INFORMATION ON SITUATION OF PERSONS

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IN COMPOUND.

3. MR. AND MRS. NORM JOHNSON, CANADIAN CITIZENS WITH THE CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE, WERE KNOWN TO BE IN BAN ME THUOT AT THE TIME OF THE ATTACK BUT NO INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON THEIR WHEREABOUTS.

4. FOREGOING INFORMATION HAS BEEN PASSED TO RESPECTIVE EMBASSIES IN SAIGON AND MAY BE USED BY ADDRESSEES WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS IF DESIRED.

5. WE ARE REPEATING TO ACTION ADDRESSEES SAIGON 2931 REPORTING "PRG" SPOKESMAN'S ASSURANCES THAT FOREIGN RESIDENTS IN VIETNAM CAPTURED BY HIS SIDE WILL RECEIVE HUMANE TREATMENT.
LEHMANN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Reason:
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05 JUL 2006

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